

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8, 13, 14, 18 and 19 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 9-12, 15-17, 22 and 25-28 remain active in the application. No prior art rejections have been applied against the claims.

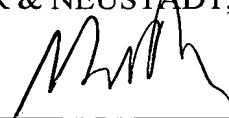
Concerning the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, the claims have been amended to eliminate the phrase “allows to indicate.” Concerning the objection to the clarity of the recitation of a (singular) “detection signal,” this objection is traversed. Applicants had previously pointed out that the recitation of “detection signals” in the claims provides antecedent basis for recited “detection signal” since the detection signal there being referred to is simply one of the previously recited detection signals (see M.P.E.P. § 2173.05(e)). The Examiner, in maintaining this rejection, has stated that it is not clear which of the previously recited signals is meant thereby. In response to this, Applicants note that the plural signals previously recited as antecedent basis were from plural sources, i.e., the “manipulation range detecting means and the actual gear range detecting means” (Claims 9, 15 and 25-26) or the “the manipulation range detecting switch and the actual gear range detecting sensor” (Claims 22 and 28). The allegedly unclear recitations refer to the detection signal “from the manipulation range detecting means” (Claims 9 and 25); from the “actual gear range detecting means” (Claims 15 and 26); or from the “manipulation range detecting switch” (Claims 22 and 28). Thus it is clear that it is the previously recited signal from the identified one of the manipulation range, or actual gear range, detecting means or switch which is there being referred to.

Application No. 10/085,734
Reply to Office Action of July 9, 2004.

Applicants therefore believe that the present application is in a condition for allowance and respectfully solicit an early notice of allowability.

Respectfully submitted,

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